

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10976

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: FURTSEVA SAYS NOTHING WILL HAPPEN TO SAKHAROV-SOLZHENITSYN

1. MINISTER OF CULTURE HOSTED INFORMAL LUNCHEON FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON SEPT. 11. IN COURSE OF FRANK AND INFORMAL LUNCHEON EXCHANGES, CHARACTERISTIC OF PREVIOUS RICHARDSON-FURTSEVA MEETINGS BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW, MRS. FURTSEVA HERSELF BROUGHT UP BOTH WATERGATE AND THE SAKHAROV-SOLZHENITSYN SITUATION. FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THAT PART OF CONVERSATION WAS DISCUSSED IN SUBSTANCE, BUT THIS SUMMARY WAS NOT CLEARED WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON.

2. FURTSEVA OPENED WITH QUESTION ABOUT MEANING OF WATERGATE AND LIKELIHOOD OF ITS BEING A PROLONGED PROCESS. SHE WONDERED WHETHER WATERGATE ISSUE WASN'T BEING PRESSED BY CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS WHO OPPOSED PRESIDENT'S POLICY OF DETENTE WITH SSSR. RICHARDSON STRESSED THAT INTERNAL US REACTION RELATED TO STRONG AND DEEP VIEWS AMERICANS HAVE ABOUT THE CIVIL LIBERTIES AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS GUARANTEED BY OUR CONSTITUTION AND THE LEGAL PROCEDURES WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO PROTECT THOSE RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES. HE REJECTED THESIS THAT WATERGATE GENERATED BY OPPONENTS OF PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES WHICH HAVE
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RECEIVED OVERWHELMING SUPPORT OF AMERICAN PUBLIC.

3. FURTSEVA THEN LAUNCHED INTO DISCUSSION OF SAKHAROV AND SOLZHENITSYN, COMMENTING WITH AIR OF INDIGNATION THAT THEY ARE INDIVIDUALS WHO SEEK TO UNDERMINE POLICY OF DETENTE.

4. OBVIOUSLY IRRITATED BY FOREIGN REACTION TO RECENT EVENTS, FURTSEVA EMPHASIZED THAT SAKHAROV-SOLZHENITSYN MATTER WAS WHOLLY INTERNAL AFFAIR IN WHICH OUTSIDERS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE. SHE SANCTIMONIOUSLY ATTEMPTED TO ASSURE HER LUNCHEON GUESTS THAT GREAT MASS OF SOVIET PEOPLE, SCIENTIFIC AND INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY, AND PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DO NOT AGREE WITH EFFORTS BY SAKHAROV AND SOLZHENITSYN TO WRECK DETENTE. FURTSEVA CHARGED THAT SAKHAROV, WHO GETS MORE MONEY AND HAS A BETTER APARTMENT THAN A GOVERNMENT MINISTER, IS A "HAS-BEEN" WHO IS NOW OVERSHADOWED BY A YOUNG GENERATION OF BRILLIANT SCIENTISTS. AWARE OF THIS SITUATION, SAKHAROV MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO REMAIN IN THE LIMELIGHT AND TO GAIN RECOGNITION ABROAD BY GIVING SENSATIONAL INTERVIEWS TO THE FOREIGN PRESS.

5. DURING THE COURSE OF HER DIATRIBE, SHE DID SAY THAT SAKHAROV WAS NOT BEING HURT NOR WOULD HE BE HURT. (AS MEETING WAS BREAKING UP, CHARGE RETURNED TO THIS QUESTION, ASKING WHAT SHE ANTICIPATED REGARDING THE FUTURE OF SAKHAROV AND SOLZHENITSYN. FURTSEVA PREFACED HER SHORT ANSWER BY SAYING, "IT DEPENDS," WITHOUT SAYING UPON WHAT, BUT CONCLUDED BY REITERATING THAT "NOTHING WILL HAPPEN.")

6. ON SAKHAROV, RICHARDSON RESPONDED BY PARAPHRASING KISSINGER REMARKS AT CONFIRMATION HEARINGS. WITH REGARD TO FURTSEVA'S CONCERN ABOUT FOREIGN INTEREST IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, CHARGE NOTED THAT SUPER-POWERS WHETHER THEY LIKED IT OR NOT, HAD TO ACCEPT FACT THAT THEIR INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BE SCRUTINIZED AND COMMENTED UPON BY OUTSIDE WORLD AND THAT PERCEPTIONS OF OUTSIDERS COULD HAVE SOME BEARING ON MANNER IN WHICH INDIVIDUAL GOVERNMENTS MIGHT PURSUE THEIR RELATIONS WITH US OR USSR.

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